1.   Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   An encoding method applied to an input video sequence corresponding to successive scenes subdivided into successive video object planes (VOPs), the method comprising:

~~and~~ generating, ~~for coding all the video objects of said scenes,~~ a coded bitstream for coding all the video objects of said scenes, the content of the coded bitstream ~~which~~ is described in terms of separate channels and constituted of encoded video data in which each data item is described by means of a bitstream syntax allowing recognition and decoding of ~~to recognize and decode~~ all the elements of said content, wherein the coded bitstream further ~~said syntax comprising an~~ comprises additional syntactic information provided for describing independently for each channel the type of temporal prediction for that channel ~~of the various channels,~~ the type of temporal predictions being chosen from a list ~~said predictions being chosen within a list~~ comprising the following situations:

the temporal prediction is formed by directly applying the motion field sent by the encoder on one or more reference pictures ;

the temporal prediction is a copy of a reference image;

the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the motion field;

the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the current motion field and further refined by the motion field sent by the encoder ; and

wherein the ~~said method being further characterized in that said~~ additional syntactic information is a syntactic element placed at a selected level in said generated coded bitstream and its meaning is specific for each present channel.

2. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected level is a macroblock level.

3. (Previously Presented)   An encoding method according to claim 1, characterized in that said meaning is shared by all existing channels.

4. (Currently Amended)   An encoding device, comprising:

means for processing an input video sequence that corresponds to successive scenes subdivided into successive video object planes (YOPs); and

means for generating ~~for coding all the video objects of said scenes,~~ a coded bitstream, the content of ~~which~~ the coded bitstream is described in terms of separate channels and constituted of encoded video data in which each data item is described by means of a bitstream syntax allowing recognition and decoding of ~~to recognize and decode~~ all the elements of said content, ~~said encoding device being provided for carrying out the encoding method according to claim 1,~~ wherein the coded bitstream further comprises additional syntactic information provided for describing independently for each channel the type of temporal prediction for that channel, the type of temporal predictions being chosen from a list comprising the following situations:

the temporal prediction is formed by directly applying the motion field sent by the encoder on one or more reference pictures ;

the temporal prediction is a copy of a reference image;

the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the motion field;

the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the current motion field and further refined by the motion field sent by the encoder ; and

wherein the additional syntactic information is a syntactic element placed at a selected level in said generated coded bitstream and its meaning is specific for each present channel.

5.   Cancelled.

6. (Currently Amended)   A method for decoding a transmittable video signal consisting of a coded bitstream generated by an encoding device processing an input video sequence that corresponds to successive scenes subdivided into successive video object planes (VOPs), the method comprising:

decoding ~~and generating, for coding all the video objects of said scenes,~~ a coded bitstream in which the content ~~of which~~ is described in terms of separate channels and constituted of encoded video data in which each data item is described by means of a bitstream syntax allowing recognition and decoding of ~~to recognize and decode~~ all the elements of said content, ~~said transmittable video signal,~~ the coded bitstream including an additional syntactic information provided for describing independently for each channel the type of temporal

prediction <u>for that channel</u> ~~of the various channels~~, <u>the type of temporal predictions being chosen from a list</u> ~~said predictions being chosen within a list~~ comprising the following situations :

the temporal prediction is formed by directly applying the motion field sent by the encoder on one or more reference pictures ;

the temporal prediction is a copy of a reference image;

the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the motion field;

the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the current motion field and further refined by the motion field sent by the encoder; and

<u>wherein the</u> ~~said additional syntactic information being a~~ <u>additional syntactic information is a</u> syntactic element placed at one of a slice level and a macroblock level in said generated coded bitstream and its meaning is specific for each present channel.

7.   (Original) A decoding device for carrying out a decoding method according to claim 6.

8. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected level is a slice level.

9 (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 6 further comprising recovering a shape channel using the temporal prediction that is a copy of a reference image and recovering a luminance channel and a chrominance channel using motion compensated temporal interpolation.

10 (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising encoding a shape channel using the temporal prediction that is a copy of a reference image and encoding a luminance channel and a chrominance channel using motion compensated temporal interpolation.

11 (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising encoding a first portion of the video input sequence using the temporal prediction that is a copy of a reference image and encoding a second portion of the of the video input sequence using motion compensated temporal interpolation.

12 (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 6 further comprising recovering a first portion of the video input sequence using the temporal prediction that is a copy of a reference image and recovering a second portion of the of the video input sequence using motion compensated temporal interpolation.